

## 9 FAM Appendix C, TAIWAN

(TL:VISA-454; 08-13-2002)

### RECIPROCITY

(TL:VISA-454; 08-13-2002)

Class	Fee	No. Applications	Validity
A-1	NONE	MULTIPLE	60 MONTHS [A] [B]
A-2	NONE	MULTIPLE	60 MONTHS [A] [B]
A-3 [1]	NONE	MULTIPLE	12 MONTHS [A] [B]
B-1	NONE	MULTIPLE	60 MONTHS
B-2	NONE	MULTIPLE	60 MONTHS
B-1/B-2	NONE	MULTIPLE	60 MONTHS
C-1	NONE	MULTIPLE	60 MONTHS
C-1/D	NONE	MULTIPLE	60 MONTHS
C-2	NONE	MULTIPLE	12 MONTHS
C-3	NONE	MULTIPLE	12 MONTHS
D	NONE	MULTIPLE	60 MONTHS
E-1 [2]	NONE	MULTIPLE	60 MONTHS
E-2 [2]	NONE	MULTIPLE	60 MONTHS
F-1	NONE	MULTIPLE	60 MONTHS
F-2	NONE	MULTIPLE	60 MONTHS
G-1	NONE	MULTIPLE	12 MONTHS [A] [B]
G-2	NONE	MULTIPLE	12 MONTHS [A] [B]
G-3	NONE	MULTIPLE	12 MONTHS [A] [B]
G-4	NONE	MULTIPLE	12 MONTHS [A] [B]
G-5 [1]	NONE	MULTIPLE	12 MONTHS [A] [B]
H-1B	NONE	MULTIPLE	60 MONTHS [3]
H-1C	NONE	MULTIPLE	60 MONTHS [3]
H-2A	NONE	MULTIPLE	60 MONTHS [3]
H-2B	NONE	MULTIPLE	60 MONTHS [3]
H-3	NONE	MULTIPLE	60 MONTHS [3]
H-4	NONE	MULTIPLE	60 MONTHS [3]
I	NONE	MULTIPLE	60 MONTHS [3]
J-1 [4]	NONE	MULTIPLE	60 MONTHS
J-2 [4]	NONE	MULTIPLE	60 MONTHS
K-1	NONE	ONE	6 MONTHS
K-2	NONE	ONE	6 MONTHS
K-3	NONE	MULTIPLE	24 MONTHS
K-4	NONE	MULTIPLE	24 MONTHS
L-1	NONE	MULTIPLE	60 MONTHS [3]
L-2	NONE	MULTIPLE	60 MONTHS [3]
M-1	NONE	MULTIPLE	60 MONTHS [3]
M-2	NONE	MULTIPLE	60 MONTHS [3]
N-8	NONE	MULTIPLE	12 MONTHS
N-9	NONE	MULTIPLE	12 MONTHS
NATO 1-7	N/A	N/A	N/A
O-1	NONE	MULTIPLE	60 MONTHS [3]

O-2	NONE	MULTIPLE	60 MONTHS [3]
O-3	NONE	MULTIPLE	60 MONTHS [3]
P-1	NONE	MULTIPLE	60 MONTHS [3]
P-2	NONE	MULTIPLE	60 MONTHS [3]
P-3	NONE	MULTIPLE	60 MONTHS [3]
P-4	NONE	MULTIPLE	60 MONTHS [3]
Q-1 [6]	NONE	MULTIPLE	15 MONTHS [3]
R-1	NONE	MULTIPLE	60 MONTHS
R-2	NONE	MULTIPLE	60 MONTHS
S-5 [7]	NONE	ONE	1 MONTH
S-6 [7]	NONE	ONE	1 MONTH
S-7 [7]	NONE	ONE	1 MONTH
T-1 [9]	N/A	N/A	N/A
T-2	NONE	ONE	6 MONTHS
T-3	NONE	ONE	6 MONTHS
T-4	NONE	ONE	6 MONTHS
TD [5]	N/A	N/A	N/A
V-1	NONE	MULTIPLE	120 MONTHS
V-2	NONE	MULTIPLE	120 MONTHS [8]
V-3	NONE	MULTIPLE	120 MONTHS [8]

(A) Diplomatic relations not in force.

(B) “A” and “G” visas may be issued to Taiwan applicants who are employed by foreign governments, or who are the attendants or personal employees of accredited officials of foreign governments. Qualified applicants should be issued visas on Form OF-232, following the procedures indicated in 22 CFR 41.113(b). The Machine Readable Visa (MRV) on Form OF-232 should be annotated as follows:

“Bearer is employed by the Embassy of Z, Washington, DC” /or/  
“Bearer is an employee of John Doe, Embassy of Z, Washington, DC”

“A” and “G” visas may also be issued on Form OF-232 to Taiwan applicants who are immediate family members of an accredited official from another country who has been accorded “A” or “G” nonimmigrant status. The MRV on the Form OF-232 should be annotated as follows:

“Bearer is the immediate family member of John Doe, Embassy of Z, Washington, DC” /or/ “Bearer is the immediate family member of John Doe, World Bank, Washington, DC”

## **SPECIAL CLEARANCE AND ISSUANCE PROCEDURES**

(TL:VISA-176; 02-06-1998)

For posts on-line with CLASS, if there is no reason to suspect that an applicant is concealing a criminal conviction, then IV clearance from AIT Taipei is unnecessary.

## **DOCUMENTS AND RECORDS**

### **Household Registration Records**

*(TL:VISA-176; 02-06-1998)*

Household registration records will contain entries regarding birth, death marriage, and divorce. Extracts of the household registration may, therefore, be accepted as prima facie evidence of this fact.

### **Birth Record**

*(TL:VISA-176; 02-06-1998)*

Available. A household registration record (hukou) or extract thereof shows the name of the person, date of birth, names of parents and name of spouse, if married. The island of Taiwan was under Japanese rule from 1895 to 1945. The Japanese Government maintained the same system of household registration (koseki) as they did in other parts of Japan. This system of household registration, with minor changes, has been continued. Records concerning Taiwan Chinese, i.e., those who were Japanese nationals until the end of World War II, are fairly complete. Records on Chinese who came from the China mainland after World War II date back to the date they first applied for registration with the local household registration office, and are based on information provided by the applicant.

Military personnel are not registered in the household registration system, while foreigners are registered with the Foreign Affairs Police.

Extracts of household registration records may be obtained by furnishing the name of the person, date of birth, names of parents, and name of spouse, if married. However, only the provincial affiliation, not the place of birth, is given—so a person born in Taiwan whose father is from Shanghai will be entered as a native of Shanghai. Care should be taken to ensure that the applicant is submitting a properly certified extract of the household registration, and not just a photocopy of his Household Roster card. A properly certified extract will have a statement stamped on it, and will be impressed with the seal of the household registration in red ink. The Household Roster card is a simplified version of the household registration, but certain information which might be significant for visa purposes and which will appear in the certified extract will not appear in the Household Roster.

As mentioned above, foreign residents are registered with the Foreign Affairs Police. Children born of foreign fathers, since they are not granted citizenship by the Taiwan authorities, are usually registered with their own consular authorities. Persons born outside of Taiwan should be requested to obtain the documentation applicable to the country in which they were born.

## **Divorce**

*(TL:VISA-270; 05-03-2001)*

A husband and wife may obtain a divorce by mutual consent by signing an agreement in the presence of two witnesses and registering the divorce at the household administration office. No other legal intervention is necessary, unless one of the parties is a minor. For a divorce to be valid, its registration should be reflected on the individual's household registration.

## **Death Certificate**

*(TL:VISA-176; 02-06-1998)*

Death certificates are issued by the attending physician, not by a government agency. In the case of an untimely death, the certificate will be issued by a coroner. If the death occurred during military service, a military indemnity eligibility certificate is acceptable as proof of death.

In the absence of a system of vital statistics registration which may be considered as adequate and complete as defined by visa regulations, the documents described above may be accepted.

## **Police Record**

*(TL:VISA-369; 03-12-2002)*

Taiwan issues police certificates, although they are not always comprehensive. Also, legislation is pending in Taiwan that will cause criminal convictions resulting in a penalty of a fine, probation, a suspended sentence, or a sentence of less than two years be deleted from a person's criminal record. Crimes committed by juveniles are not part of the criminal record. Therefore, under the new legislation, a police clearance certificate will not show these convictions. Crimes relevant to visa issuance may be included in those that may not be shown on a person's police clearance certificate. Conversely, convictions, once part of a person's record, remains in the person's record indefinitely. The information reported by the police on police clearance certificates is reliable, but applicants have been able to exclude relevant convictions by specifying specific dates for which the check is to be

performed. Information recorded in police clearance certificates comes from a national database of criminal convictions that is updated weekly. If posts suspect that a Taiwan visa applicant is concealing a criminal conviction despite presentation of a clean police clearance certificate, posts should send a completed Form DS-156, *Nonimmigrant Visa Application*, with a photocopy of the bio page of the applicant's passport to the Fraud Prevention Unit at AIT.

Taiwan does not use a standard system for romanizing names, resulting in a wide range of name spellings. However, every Taiwan citizen is assigned a unique national identification number that never changes. Whenever possible, queries should include a person's national identification number. Applicants with Taiwan passports should apply for a police certificate from the police headquarters having jurisdiction over the county or city in which the applicant's household is registered, as recorded in the Household Registration certificate. A third party can assist in this application. Previous residents of Taiwan not holding a Taiwan passport may apply for a police certificate by writing to:

Foreign Affairs Division  
 Taipei Municipal Police Department  
 No. 96, Yen Ping South Road  
 Taipei, Taiwan

Applicants should enclose a completed application form (available from Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Offices (TECRO) or Republic of China Embassies). There is a processing fee of US\$11.00. No police certificate is available for previous residents of Taiwan who were dependents of U.S. military personnel and covered by the Status of Forces Agreement or persons living in Taiwan prior to August 1945.

## **Prison Record**

(TL:VISA-176; 02-06-1998)

Unavailable. There is no established procedure for obtaining an official document containing a report of an individual's confinement in prison. However, if a person has been arrested and sentenced, this information may appear in the police certificate or clearance report.

## **Court Record**

*(TL:VISA-176; 02-06-1998)*

Available. Theoretically, the records of all cases that came before a court in Taiwan are available. However, due to the dispersal of records in Taiwan, difficulty may be experienced in obtaining full information on old cases. A certified copy of the court judgment may be obtained upon application by an interested party to the appropriate court.

## **Military Record**

*(TL:VISA-176; 02-06-1998)*

Unavailable. An official military record as defined in visa regulations is unavailable. Persons, who have served in the armed forces in Taiwan after World War II, will possess discharge certificates showing their military service status, e.g., reserve Army officer with rank of Lieutenant, or retired Air Force sergeant, etc., giving date of discharge.

## **Passports—Information on Travel Documents**

### **Passport Must Contain Unrestricted Reentry Permit**

*(TL:VISA-270; 05-03-2001)*

Passports issued prior to May 20, 2000: A regular tourist passport issued by the authorities on Taiwan should contain a reentry permit (in English) on page 2 granting the bearer the right to return to Taiwan as long as the passport remains valid. A Taiwan passport with this permit is considered a valid passport that meets the requirements of INA 101(a)(30). Taiwan passports issued prior to May 20, 2000, that do not contain such unrestricted reentry permits do not fulfill the passport requirement of INA 101(a)(30).

Passports issued since May 20, 2000, meet the definition of a passport under INA requirements as long as they contain a national identification number on the biographic page. Passports without such a national identification number do not allow the bearer unrestricted right to enter and/or reside in Taiwan and do not by themselves meet the definition of a passport under INA 101(a)(30). Such documents are often paired with one of many types of entry and/or exit documents issued by Taiwan authorities, most of which also do not guarantee entry into Taiwan. Consular officers should scrutinize such documents closely, perhaps even requiring English translations, to determine if an applicant has fulfilled INA passport requirements.

Visas may not be placed in diplomatic or official passports issued by the Taiwan authorities. In issuing visas to bearers of diplomatic or official passports issued by the Taiwan authorities, consular officers should follow the instructions set forth in 22 CFR 41.113(b) by issuing visas on Form OF-232.

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The Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office (TECRO) is the instrumentality provided for in Section 10 of the Taiwan Relations Act [Public Law 96-8] to represent Taiwan in the United States in the absence of diplomatic relations. Persons possessing a Taiwan passport who are assigned for more than 90 days to the TECRO offices in the United States and their spouses should be issued E-1 visas annotated "Employee [or Dependent] of TECRO accorded courtesies and "Duration of Status" per TRA 4(a)." Unmarried dependent sons and daughters of TECRO employees over the age of 21 may be issued E visas so long as they attend school, engage in employment, or remain in this country for the purposes specified in 8 CFR 214.2 (A)(2) and otherwise normally reserved for "immediate family members" of "A" diplomats over the age of 21. Other immediate family members (e.g., parents, parent-in-law, etc.), who are members of the same household, may be issued B-2 visas annotated Dependent of TECRO accorded courtesies per INS policy memo 235.7-P, March 1979. Personal employees of TECRO personnel may be issued B-1 visas.

## **Visa Processing for Taiwan Residents**

*(TL:VISA-176; 02-06-1998)*

The Travel Services Section of the American Institute in Taiwan (AIT) became operational on April 23, 1979. AIT is a non-governmental organization created by Public Law 96-8 (The Taiwan Relations Act). Prior to July 1, 1997, immigrant and non-immigrant visa applications were issued under the authority of the Consulate General in Hong Kong. Since July 1, 1997, the AIT Travel Services Section has had authority to issue and deny visas.

Visa records are retained in Taiwan and AIT processes clearance requests for former residents of Taiwan. Posts having files for individuals who plan to pursue their applications in Taiwan should transfer the files to AIT for further action. Persons wishing to inquire about such cases or other cases involving Taiwan residents should address their questions to AIT directly via international mail to:

Travel Services Section  
American Institute in Taiwan  
#7, Lane 134, Hsin Yi Rd., Section 3  
Taipei, Taiwan 106

Current information for visa applicants at AIT Taipei is available in both English and Chinese at the AIT Taipei World Wide Web site at <http://ait.org.tw/>.

Consular officers should consult post's communications personnel for instructions on handling pouch or classified material for AIT Taipei.

## **GEOGRAPHIC AREAS SERVICED**

*(TL:VISA-176; 02-06-1998)*

All of Taiwan, Penghu (Pescadores) Islands and other areas administered by the Taiwan authorities including the islands of Jinmen (Kinmen, Quemoy) and Mazu (Matsu) in the Fujian Province.